

Council Notes December 2019

1. Council read and discussed an article about prayer, making the case that the Reformed faith inspires people to vibrant lives of prayer.
2. Council plans to begin the elder-deacon nomination process for 2020-2021 in early January. The conclusion of this process will be the congregation voting among Council's nominees on May 3 at our annual congregational meeting.
3. Council accepted the Barney family's request to stay in the church home next to church (at 1080 S. Prospect) until early January as Jonathan continues preparation for church planting in Glendale Heights.
4. Council created a temporary part-time position of Pastoral Resident and will have Mr. Nathan Voss fill that role to complete various ministry duties from January through August 15. These duties will include filling the pulpit regularly when Pastors Greg and Matthew will take vacation and sabbatical weeks in 2020, leading Vacation Bible School, doing some teaching, worship leading, pastoral care and helping out in our children and youth ministries. Nathan Voss, born and raised here at Faith CRC, is completing final requirements for pastoral ministry. He feels called to serve one day as a pastor in a local congregation. He will be helping Faith by filling in where we have some needs at this time, and we will be helping him in gaining continued experience in church ministry as he works with Pastors Lanser and Schuringa.
5. Council heard plans from Pastor Matthew for his planned sabbatical in 2020, per the Faith Church bylaws. Pastor Greg, as reported a year ago, took half a sabbatical in 2019 and is taking the second half in 2020.
6. Council noted with appreciation that the congregation, through half of our church year, is ahead of where we normally are in terms of the Timothy Tuition Assistance Fund, noting that the Golf Outing was particularly successful. Council also noted its thanks for congregational giving to the General Fund and that we are where we typically have been at this time of year, which means we have some catching up to do.
7. Council continues to be reviewing all committees and ministries in light of the three strategic pillars it wants to have built up in our church: becoming more Devotional, Relational, and Aspirational.
8. The Shalom Committee continues to find opportunities to connect with Roseland CRC and Ministries and Ebenezer CRC in Berwyn.
9. The Music Committee notes with thanks choir participation for our Veteran's Day weekend service, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day, as well as the orchestra playing for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
10. The Safe Church Team is being diligent about carrying out the recently updated Safe Church policy.

11. Evangelism and Discipleship Committees have been planning and giving good support to a variety of ministries such as PADS, Shoebox, the Ebenezer Toy Drive, the Giving Tree, Crossroads Prison Ministries, Small Groups, Dr. Bergsma's Sunday School class, etc.
12. Our Youth Ministries Committee is grateful for how volunteers have stepped up to provide interim leadership for our youth groups, and notes with thanks how our office staff is giving additional support to ensure our youth ministry remains vibrant. Also thanks is expressed for new volunteers in our Cadets and GEMS programs as well as continuing and new teachers and leaders for our Faith Foundation classes (Catechism) for 6-12th graders, Sunday School (1st-5th grade), Children's Church (3-Kindergarten), and our nurseries (birth – age 3).
13. Church Property has reported on a variety of their activities related to the church property as well as the three other properties the church owns—the pastors' parsonages and the house at 1080 S. Prospect.
14. Technology Committee worked on some needed updates for the sanctuary microphones, continues to keep up with the church network and computers, and also recently moved the production of Faith's Sunday evening Cable TV program of our worship services to the church office. Technology is thankful to Hank Vander Naald who volunteered to work on that program week by week for the past number of years.
15. The Elder Prayer Committee continues to find ways to inspire prayer opportunities in our congregation.
16. The Elders reported that they will continue with the new (as of last year) pastoral evaluation process this year and that it would start in December.